MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 FEBRUARY 1986

Egypt

Cairo radio announced the imposition of a curfew throughout greater Cairo starting at 1600 GMT 26 February and continuing until further notice. The decision followed an outbreak of rioting by conscript policemen who were responding to rumors about a decision to extend their years of service, according to the radio. A special forces unit confronted the rioters, who attacked cars, houses, and tourist sites in the pyramids area of Al-Jizah Governorate. In a related report, MENA stressed that the rumor which sparked off the disturbances was false. Although AFP reported that Cairo airport was closed to international traffic in the wake of the riots, an airport official cited by MENA subsequently stated that air traffic is proceeding normally. As for the situation near the pyramids, AFP said that two hotels were destroyed in the riots and that "dozens" of rioting conscripts were injured in violent clashes with security forces. The French agency spoke of "several thousand" rioters, noting that the protesting conscripts receive low wages and are generally employed in the thankless task of directing Cairo traffic.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces killed or wounded over 500 Iraqi troops in a new attack on the Al Faw-Umm Qasr axis the night of 25 February, IRNA announced. INA, however, stated that Iraqi forces contained several Iranian counteroffensives and that Iraqi aircraft began intensive raids on Iranian positions early 26 February following an improvement in weather conditions. As for the new Iranian offensive in northeast Iraq, which has not yet been mentioned by monitored Iraqi media, IRNA reported that Iranian forces made further gains in another advance late on 25 February, bringing to 50 the tally of Iraqi villages "liberated" northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah. Many of the captured villages mentioned in IRNA are in the mountainous area near the Gogasur River, some 20-30 km from Al-Sulaymaniyah, and the agency claimed in one report that Al-Sulaymaniyah is now within range of Iranian artillery.

In a separate development, Kuwait radio noted that the Kuwait amir inspected Kuwaiti military positions in Bubiyan Island 25 February.

Israel

The two IDF soldiers kidnapped in Lebanon 17 February have been taken to Beirut, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported.

On the Golan Heights, police arrested 18 villagers in connection with a violent demonstration that occurred during Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to the village of Majdal Shams, Jerusalem radio noted, adding that several local policemen and residents were injured in the scuffles.

PLO

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told Radio Monte Carlo that King Husayn has "canceled" the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement by his 19 February speech, adding that there will be "no agreement and no Jordanian-Palestinian relations while there are attempts to bypass the PLO."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 038 *26 February 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW I

AFGHANISTAN

Dost Reads Out Karmal Message on UN Peace Year ..... C 1

BANGLADESH

Crowds 'Jeer' President at National Day Ceremony *[AFP]* ..... D 1
President Ershad Reviews Situation with Army Officers ..... D 1
Ershad Seeks Opposition Participation in Elections ..... D 1
'Mob' Sets Fire to Intelligence Service Building *[AFP]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Parliament Rejects Opposition Motion on Price Hike ..... E 1
Opposition's Strike Call Evokes 'Mixed Response' ..... E 1
Bhagat Comments on Relations With Pakistan ..... E 1
'Strong Protest' Lodged ..... E 2
Bhagat Urges Sri Lanka To Settle Tamil Issue ..... E 2
Pre-Budget Economic Trends Presented to Parliament ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

President Ziaul Haq Greets Philippines' Aquino ..... F 1
Ziaul Haq Reiterates Stand on Afghanistan ..... F 1
Zia Comments on Role of Press, International Topics ..... F 1
Afghan Mujahidin Down Soviet Helicopter Near Kabul ..... F 1
Khunjerab Pass Linking PRC To Open in May ..... F 1

IRAN

Khomeyni Receives Relatives of War Victims ..... I 1
Musavi Discusses Offensive, Oil Price 'Plot' ..... I 1
Foreign Ministry Statement on UN Resolution ..... I 1
2 More French Nationals Arrested, 3d Still Held *[AFP]* ..... I 2
Velayati Departs for Geneva Disarmament Conference ..... I 2
Aqazadeh Says UAE Visit 'Highly Successful' ..... I 2
Lebanese Muslim Leaders Visit Tehran 22 Feb ..... I 3
Meet With Velayati ..... I 3
Meet With Khamene'i ..... I 3
Envoy to Lebanon Praises Resistance in South ..... I 3
Sheykh ol-Eslam Arrives in Bahrain 25 Feb ..... I 3
Besharati Comments on Libyan, Syrian Visits ..... I 4
Islamic Guidance Official Assassinated in Kordestan ..... I 4
War Information Official on Combatants' Successes ..... I 4
More on Chemical Weapon Victims European Treatment ..... I 4
Media Ban in Sweden Protested ..... I 5
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 5
'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 1 ..... I 5
Forces 'Crush' Counteroffensive ..... I 5
Communique No 2390 ..... I 6
Val-Fajr-9 Communique No 2 ..... I 6
Iraqi POW's Interviewed ..... I 6

Val-Fajr-8 Offensive Continues ..... I 7
Further Heights Liberated ..... I 7
Further Battle Victories ..... I 7
200 Square Kilometers Seized ..... I 8
500 Iraqis Killed in Val-Fajr-8 ..... I 8
'Secret Report' Says 12,000 Casualties in War *[Voice of the Liberation of Iran]* ..... I 8

Dost Reads Out Karmal Message on U N Peace Year

LD242245 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The representatives of workers of revolutionary Afghanistan at a grand gathering today expressed complete support for the resolutions of the 39th session of the UN General Assembly on marking 1986 as International Peace Year. A message from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council on the occasion of International Peace Year was read to the gathering by Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the national preparatory commission for celebrating International Peace Year. The meeting was held in the National Fatherland Front Hall in order to celebrate International Peace Year. The message was warmly welcomed. The text of the message follows:

I have the pleasure of expressing the most sincere wishes and congratulations on behalf of the DRA Government and on my own behalf to all people of our free and peaceful homeland, the proud Afghanistan, and all peoples and governments of the world who are struggling for peace, this vital necessity of our time.

The year 1986, which has been declared International Peace Year by Resolution 39/10 dated 8 November, 1984, of the 39th session of the UN General Assembly and is being marked through special ceremonies all over the world, will undoubtedly play a valuable role in the process of consolidation of international peace, the revival of detente, and peaceful coexistence. The declaration and celebration of this year as International Peace Year once again testified to the fact that the United Nations has paid, and is paying, great attention to its fundamental tasks: the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security and the prevention of international war, to which humanity has again been subjected. The peace-loving people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan look with appreciation at this timely initiative and measure taken by the United Nations in conditions when our world has more than ever before been dragged to the abyss of annihilation as a result of the adventurist and irresponsible policies of the warmongering circles of international imperialism. Fanning the flames of the arms race, in particular nuclear arms, on earth and spreading it to outer space through star wars for the purpose of achieving military superiority; the invention of the doctrine of limited nuclear war; regional wars and inflicting first nuclear strike at the progressive countries and nations; the declaration of various regions and countries as so-called regions of vital U.S. interests and the creation of the Central Command for this purpose; the creation and strengthening of permanent naval forces in the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea; the creation of new military bases in various parts of the world and the strengthening of the existing military bases; the intensification of tension in various regions of the world and the utilization of methods of state terrorism against those states who have chosen independent, national, anti-imperialist policies — all these are the evident manifestations of the adventurist, warmongering policy of international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism. The DRA has become subject to waves of armed intervention and aggression of the forces of reaction and international imperialism. It attaches vital importance to the cause of peace and security inside the country, region, and the world, continues its consistent and resolute struggle for maintaining this sacred matter; and sincerely strives toward the consolidation of just democratic principles in international relations and the principles of peaceful coexistence between countries belonging to different socio-economic systems. It strives to ease international tension, disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament, and preventing its spreading to outer space, maintaining mutually fruitful beneficial cooperation between states, the creation of a new just international economic system, the realization of the principles and aims of the Nonaligned Movement and the principles and norms of the UN Charter and the norms of international relations. Pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy, the DRA is desirous of normal and friendly relations with all countries, in particular neighboring countries. We have rendered specific peace-seeking initiatives and measures which are known to all and will continue this policy. This policy is in the interest of peace in the region and the world. Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like once again to invite the Pakistani authorities, by taking inspiration from International Peace Year, to take a serious step toward the peaceful solution, in practice and not in words, of the situation around Afghanistan and the maintenance of good-neighborliness which are at the interest of the peoples of both countries and at the interest of peace and security of the region and the world. It is also our desire that the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran follow a sound mind and political reality in its relations with the DRA, and do not let international imperialism, this common enemy of the peoples of both countries, to exploit further the continuation of unfriendly relations between our two neighboring states. We also ask the authorities of the People's Republic of China to put an end to its policy of fanning the flames of fire which imperialism and international reaction have kindled against the DRA and respect the present realities in our region and the national and revolutionary sovereignty in the DRA.

As far as it depends on the DRA, we will spare no effort in normalizing relations between our countries, which is the rightful demand of our people and helps the cause of peace in the region. The DRA believes that the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union and other progressive countries and forces of the world — in particular the constructive proposals and peaceful initiatives of the Soviet Union enshrined in the 15 January 1986 statement of Mikhail Gorbachev on reducing nuclear weapons in three stages and finally completely eliminating them by the end of the current century, prohibiting nuclear arms tests, prohibiting chemical weapons, preventing the militarization of outer space, and maintaining collective security in Asia — are not only in complete accord with the interests and demands of the peoples of the world and international peace and security, but also with the aims of International Peace Year. Therefore, the DRA resolutely supports them. The DRA, while once again praising the initiatives of the United Nations in declaring 1986 as International Peace Year, announces its readiness toward the realization of the aims of this year through rendering specific measures and hopes that 1986 will be a starting point for realizing the ancient aspirations of the progressive and peace-loving mankind: the creation of a world free of war and nuclear arms and blessed with peace and security. Let peace and friendship be the gift of this year, not war and bloodshed!

Crowds 'Jeer' President at National Day Ceremony

HK211410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 21 (AFP) — A hostile crowd jeered the Bangladeshi military ruler today when he visited a memorial honoring martyrs of the national language movement, witnesses said.

Tight security surrounded President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's wreath-laying visit to the central martyrs' memorial on the Dhaka University campus, with 5,000 heavily armed police and paramilitary forces cordoning off the area as demonstrators shouted anti-government slogans.

Several people were injured in brief skirmishes between police and protestors that broke out as the president and members of his council of ministers were leaving the memorial, reports said.

Clashes at the memorial site between rival political groups yesterday reportedly left at least 20 injured.

February 21 is national language day honoring those killed in the language movement of 1952.

President Ershad Reviews Situation with Army Officers

BK221723 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad addressed a high-level conference of the senior officers of the Armed Forces in Dhaka today. The conference noted with regrets that the deplorable incidents at the central shahid minar [martyrs memorial] on the night of Thursday and Friday have not only marred the sanctity of the day but also tarnished the country's image in outside world. The conference also regretted that on an occasion like 21 February [language movement martyrs day] when whole nation mourns and remembers with gratitude the sacrifices of the martyrs of the language movement, certain interested quarters tried to drag politics into it. Twenty-one February is above all politics whatsoever.

The conference also discussed the overall situation in the country. The conference was attended among others by the deputy martial law administrator [DCMLA] and chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed; DCMLA and chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, and principal staff officers.

Ershad Seeks Opposition Participation in Elections

BK241610 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] President Ershad has called upon the opposition political parties to seek the verdict of the people by participating the elections. Addressing a huge public gathering at Shidpur in Narsinki District today, he said if they really believe that the people are source of all power they should go to them to know their mind through polls. If they can get the verdict of the people they can form the government and run the country. President Ershad said problems facing the country cannot be solved by organizing public meetings and rallies in cities and towns. These problems, he said, were accumulated over the ages and only could be solved by maintaining a democratic, peaceful, and disciplined atmosphere.

The president said his government has always fulfilled its commitments to the nation. In this context he referred to the implementation of various reforms and development programs which have already brought positive results. The enthusiasm that has been generated among the people to develop their country will have to be carried forward for building a happy and prosperous country, he said. The president said the present government has given priority to industrialization of the country side by side with the development of agriculture to generate employment opportunity for the youth.

Turning to the students, he advised them not to allow the political leaders to use them to achieve their selfish ends. He advised the students to devote their time and energy for building themselves as worthy citizens of the country.

'Mob' Sets Fire to Intelligence Service Building

NC211812 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 21 (AFP) — At least 100 people were wounded in clashes with police here today as opponents of the military regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad set fire to an office of the National Security Intelligence Service, witnesses said.

Police said the mob tried to burn down the building housing the intelligence agency's coordination cell near the Dhaka University campus, but that firemen managed to halt the blaze before there was any extensive damage.

Witnesses said police fired tear gas canisters and used batons to try to disperse the crowds led by militant student.

Police could not say how many people were arrested during the clashes that broke out during the observance of national language day at the National Martyrs' Memorial near the university campus.

Earlier today, a hostile crowd jeered Lieutenant-General Ershad as he visited the memorial honoring martyrs of the National Language Movement.

About 5,000 heavily armed security forces had cordoned off the area as demonstrators shouted anti-government slogans, and the first skirmishes broke out as Lt.-Gen. Ershad and government ministers left the memorial.

National language day honors the dead of the 1952 language movement in this country, which was then eastern Pakistan.

Parliament Rejects Opposition Motion on Price Hike

BK220636 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The Lok Sabha rejected last night by voice vote the adjournment motion on price rise moved by Professor Madhu Dandavate, Janata. Intervening in the debate, the agriculture minister, Mr Buta Singh, said the price rise was necessary to mop up resources for development and antipoverty programs. The number of people below the poverty line has already been brought down from over 53 percent in 1979-80 to about 40 percent. He said even the World Bank has recognized that India is the only country making a dent on poverty. He said additional 300 crore rupees have been allocated this year for antipoverty programs over and above the plan allocation. Referring to the opposition call for a countrywide bundh [strike] on Wednesday [26 February], the minister hoped that it would not turn violent. He said the present atmosphere in the country is surcharged with violence and communal tension and blamed the opposition for the situation. Replying to the 6 and 1/2 hour debate, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, said the government's spokesmen have not answered any of the basic questions posed by him. He, therefore, insisted on moving the adjournment motion. The house sat until late in the night to conclude the discussions.

Opposition's Strike Call Evokes 'Mixed Response'

BK260914 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The opposition-sponsored bundh in many parts of the country is reported to have evoked a mixed response. In some states, normal life has been affected while in other places it has been partial. Some states have been exempted. The bundh is in protest against the recent price increases.

In Maharashtra, except Bombay and some other towns, the call for bundh has not evoked much response. Barring sporadic incidents, rail and road transport in the state and suburban as well as long-distance rail traffic are operating. However, in Bombay city the bundh has paralyzed the city bus transport. The general secretary of the Janata Party, Mr George Fernandes, along with some demonstrators, was arrested in north Bombay for obstructing railway traffic today.

In Gujarat, the bundh has not affected daily life. Essential services are functioning normally. State and central government offices are open. Banking services are partially affected. Factories and industrial units are open in most parts of the state. Attendance in schools and colleges is, however, affected.

In Uttar Pradesh, over 50 percent shops are closed in various parts of the state. However, vehicular traffic and rail services are running as usual. The state secretariat in Lucknow is open. In Rajasthan, the train and bus services are running as usual. In Jaipur, the main markets in the city are closed. In Andhra Pradesh, train services in Vijaywada Division was disrupted as demonstrators squatted on the rail tracks. In Vijaywada, all business establishments, shops and cinemas were closed. The state government offices were also closed. The central government and public sector undertakings are, however, working.

In Goa, normal life is reported to have been affected in most towns with shops, markets, cinemas and educational institutions remaining closed. All kinds of transport are also off the road.

Normal life was also affected in many parts of Karnataka. In Bangalore, while state buses are not plying, private transport and taxis are operating. Industrial and business establishments were closed. However, rail traffic is normal. In Kerala, trains are running as usual. Normal bus services have been affected. In Pondicherry, the bundh is not being observed as the opposition DMK and its allies have decided not to take part in it because of the announcement of results of the elections for local bodies in Tamil Nadu.

In Orissa, attendance in government offices, banks, schools and colleges was thin. Buses and most of the other modes of transport were off the road. In Bihar, the bundh evoked a partial response with vehicles plying in the capital, Patna. Shops and restaurants are doing their business. In Assam and Meghalaya also the bundh did not evoke much response.

Bhagat Comments on Relations With Pakistan

BK251526 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1434 GMT Feb 86

[Text] The Minister for External Affairs Bali Ram Bhagat made the following statement in the Lok Sabha today on 25 February in response to a calling attention notice by Prof Ko Tiwari and four others to a reported statement made by the official spokesman of a neighbouring country regarding recent disturbances in India:

"In a statement made in its Senate on February 20 regarding some recent disturbances in India, Pakistan minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that people of Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to the plight of human beings, particularly those with whom they share bonds of religion, culture, and family ties. Similar statements were made by the Government of Pakistan in its National Assembly on June 12 1985 and in their Senate on July 9 1985. In addition there have also been other objectionable statements.

We have noted with concern the above tendency of the Government of Pakistan in recent years to make unwarranted references to and take an unhealthy interest in minority communities in India. While professing adherence to the principle of non interference these references cannot but be regarded as blatant interference in our internal affairs.

Honourable members would also recall that in the historic Simla Agreement India and Pakistan mutually agreed that adherence to the principle of non interference in internal affairs is a prerequisite for reconciliation, good neighbourliness and durable peace between them. While making a statement in their National Assembly of Pakistan in July 1974 when the Sadar Bazar riots took place in Delhi, the then Government of Pakistan stated that under the Simla Agreement it would be treated as an internal matter. The attitude of the Government of Pakistan is now at variance with the earlier stand.

The Government of India have on several occasions made it clear to the Government of Pakistan that such statements are contrary to the Simla Agreement and not conducive to promotion of harmonious and good neighbourly relations. On our part we have refrained from commenting on reports of sectarian riots, denial of democratic rights and restriction on freedom of religious worship to minority communities including Ahmedias in Pakistan even though there has been public concern voiced on these developments in India and elsewhere. It is our hope that the Government of Pakistan will take due note of these facts and desist from such actions which cannot but adversely affect our efforts to develop friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan."

'Strong Protest' Lodged

BK251605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] India has told Pakistan that the process of building up friendship cannot progress so long as that country remains involved in terrorist activity in Punjab. Replying to a call attention motion by Mr K.K. Tiwari, Congress-I, and others in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, said Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activity is a crucial matter and we have evidence of it. The names of seven extremists have been given to Pakistan and it has been asked to return them. But Pakistan denies its involvement. The call attention motion referred to statements by official spokesman of Pakistan regarding the recent disturbances in India. Mr Bhagat said we have noted the tendency of the Pakistan Government to make unwarranted references to the minority communities in India. These are blatant interferences in our internal affairs.

The Pakistan ambassador was called this morning and a strong protest was lodged. India on its part has not commented on reports of sectarian riots, denial of democratic rights, and restrictions on freedom of religious worship to minority communities, including Ahmedias, in Pakistan.

Replying to a question, Mr Bhagat said government does not visualize an early visit by Mr Rajiv Gandhi to Pakistan. The visit was conceived as the culmination of a process of consultations which is far from complete. Signatories to the motion referred to Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activity in Punjab, the aid being given by the United States to Pakistan, and the difference between the Pakistani leaders' statements and action.

Bhagat Urges Sri Lanka To Settle Tamil Issue

BK261406 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] India has asked Sri Lanka to find a negotiated political settlement to the ethnic problem within a timeframe of not more than a month. The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, told the lower house of Parliament today that the Sri Lankan Government should order an impartial enquiry into the killings of Tamils. He was replying to a calling attention motion on the subject moved by Mr (P. Kollaindevullu), All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham, and others. He emphasized that a settlement should be arrived in the shortest possible time. The Government of India has given top priority to the issue. He disclosed that the Indian high commissioner in Colombo has been called for consultations in India and will convey its views to the Sri Lankan Government. He said the Sri Lankan Government has expressed its desire to continue the negotiations. Mr Bhagat pointed out that the crisis in Sri Lanka has had severe repurcussions on India with 125,000 refugees seeking refuge in our country. Conditions should be created to permit their early return to Sri Lanka in honor and safety. During the discussion, members condemned the indiscrimiante killing of innocent people in Sri Lanka and urged the government to pressurize the Sri Lankan authorities to end the violence and find an immediate solution to the problem. They said the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] proposal should be accepted.

Pre-Budget Economic Trends Presented to Parliament

BK250923 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] The pre-budget economic survey for 1985-86 presented to Parliament today highlights the major policy initiatives taken to boost economic growth, reinforce antipoverty programs, revitalize industry, and provide a new direction to fiscal policies. Growth in gross national product is likely to range between 4.5 and 5 percent. This means a significant improvement over the growth rate of 3.7 percent in 1984-85 and it would be close to the seventh plan target of 5 percent. The survey notes that the year 1985-86 has been a successful start to the seventh plan. It draws particular attention to the buoyancy in tax revenues and the decline in the rate of inflation recorded in the first 10 months of the year. The survey observes that despite drought in several regions, the overall growth in agriculture production is expected to be about 3 percent of the current year financial year in contrast to a decline of 0.9 percent in the previous year. The foodgrain output is likely to be 150 million tons, an increase of 4 million tons over the last year. The industrial production also shows signs of acceleration with a growth of 6.8 percent recorded in the first 8 months of 1985-86.

On the price front, the survey points out that the rate of inflation in 1985-86 is likely to be lower than in 1984-85. The wholesale price index increased by 3.1 percent between 1 March and 25 January this year, which is the lowest increase for this period in the last 7 years. Referring to the balance of payment position, it says the economic surveys of the preceding 2 years had envisaged a difficult balance of payments situation in the later half of the current decade. A wide range of measures have to be initiated and vigorously pursued to economize on energy use in industry, commerce, and transport. The production and use of nonpetroleum energy sources have also to be greatly improved. The survey emphasizes the necessity of effective implementation of the major antipoverty programs and says seventh plan accords high priority to them.

The economic survey was presented in the Lok Sabha by the finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and in the Rajya Sabha by his minister of state, Mr Janardan Pujari.

President Ziaul Haq Greets Philippines' Aquino

BK260635 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] In a message on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan and his own behalf, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has heartily congratulated Mrs Corazon Aquino for assuming charge as the president of the Philippines. In his message to Mrs Aquino the president said: The total and the enthusiastic support of the people of Philippines to you is a glowing tribute for your inspiring leadership and acumen. The president said Pakistan fully believes that in the years to come the existing friendly relations between the two countries will be improved and strengthened. He said with President Mrs Aquino he desires to promote these relations based on friendship and understanding for the benefit of the people of the two countries. He said Pakistan is desirous of your success for the welfare and well-being of the people of the Philippines.

Ziaul Haq Reiterates Stand on Afghanistan

BK231717 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has again emphasized the need to strengthen democratic institutions in the country and said coordinated efforts should be made at all levels to achieve desired objectives of national development. He said this while addressing a local bodies convention in Sibi today.

The president referred to political activities in the country and said Pakistan greatly needs political stability, and people from all walks of life should cooperate for stability of the present government. The president said as far as the demand for new elections is concerned, political elements should wait until the next general elections and allow the present government to complete its term. He said he is fully confident of the people's political wisdom and he is sure that they could not be deceived with empty slogans. The president said the present federal and provincial governments are fully free and if they want they can change old policies and formulate new policies.

Referring to the Afghanistan problem, the president said Pakistan is only providing shelter to the refugees and it would continue to help until they go back to their homes in honor and safety. It has been Pakistan's endeavor to solve this issue through political dialogue in cooperation with the United Nations. He said he hoped that positive results will be obtained from the next round of indirect talks in Geneva. The president said Pakistan desires good relations based on respect and dignity with the Soviet Union. He reiterated that foreign forces should withdraw from Afganistan.

Later, the president gave cash awards and (?certificates) to the best local council, municipal committee, town committee, and union council of each district.

Zia Comments on Role of Press, International Topics

BK250338 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has called on the newspapers to play an appropraite role in the new democracy and to refrain from spreading rumors. Talking to newspaper correspondents in Karachi yesterday, he said there are some who are trying to mislead the people only to fulfill their wicked intentions. The president said the transfer of power has come about through an organized program. A political process has been restored and public meetings are being held, thereby reflecting the true concept of freedom in an Islamic state. The press must play a very important role in this regard. They must create a positive attitude and cordial atmosphere and promote national integration. The journalists should use their pens to assist the elected government and to provide correct guidance to the people. In answer to a question, the president said he is an elected president and enjoys the confidence of the people and their elected representatives.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the president said Pakistan is deeply concerned over it, and he, as the head of the state and as a member of the Ummah Peace Committee, has made personal efforts to end this dispute. Pakistan is still continuing efforts to find a settlement to the issue through diplomatic means.

Replying to another question, the president said that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will visit Pakistan in the first half of this year, as scheduled.

On the Afghan refugees, the president said these refugees will return to their homes with respect and honor only after Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan.

Afghan Mujahidin Down Soviet Helicopter Near Kabul

BK260821 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] According to reports, Afghan mujahidin shot down a Soviet helicopter near Kabul on Friday [21 February]. Reports say that mujahidin captured about 30 Soviet raiding soldiers in east of Kabul.

Khunjerab Pass Linking PRC To Open in May

BK211532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Work is continuing on a comprehensive plan to provide new buses and coaches to northern areas in order to provide better transport facilities to people. Official sources told Radio Pakistan's Gilgit correspondent today that some of these buses will be operated on the Karakoram Highway between Gilgit and China to provide transport facility to tourists through the Khunjerab Pass. The pass is to be opened for the first time in May.

Khomeyni Receives Relatives of War Victims
LD251813 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — Relatives of the martyrs, POW's, and of those missing in action from different cities met Imam Khomeyni at Jamaran Mosque here Tuesday.

During the meeting imam's representative and head of the Martyrs Foundation Hojjat ol-Islam Mahdi Karrubi congratulated the leader of the Islamic revolution on the recent victories of the Iranian combatants.

He furthermore lauded martyrs of the Iranian airliner which was downed by Iraqi war planes on 20 February.

At the conclusion of the meeting Imam Khomeyni responded to the enthusiasm of the visitors.

Musavi Discusses Offensive, Oil Price 'Plot'
LD251217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Report on speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to military divisions outside Majlis building in Tehran 25 February]

[Excerpts] After gathering in front of the Majlis building, three of Tehran's Fajr divisions left for the battlefronts this morning.

At a ceremony attended by the Majlis speaker, Prime Minister Musavi thanked the Hezbollah nation for its self-sacrifices. He said the recent resolution of the UN Security Council is a continuation of the conspiracies of world arrogance against the Islamic revolution.

Musavi said: We declare that only U.S. interests are in danger in the region, not world peace. Prior to 11 February, the mass media of the world said that our people were fed up with the war. But our nation has demonstrated the strength of Islam.

The prime minister warned the regimes backing Saddam not to tie their destiny with that of Saddam, because their efforts to obtain a vote of condemnation and biased judgments from international organizations will not benefit Saddam's regime.

Musavi added: The Iraqi regime is using all its strength to commit inhuman acts such as chemical weapons bombardments and attacks on passenger planes. But even though we have the power to retaliate in the same manner, we will not do so. We shall avenge such beastly acts on the battlefronts.

Musavi stressed in conclusion: Iran will respond to the superpower-backed plot to reduce oil prices. Our move towards Iraqi oil wells in northern Iraq is a serious warning to Iraq and its reactionary supporters that they cannot take action against the oil-producing nations and the Islamic revolution.

Foreign Ministry Statement on UN Resolution
LD251851 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Foreign Ministry statement on the UN Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war; date not specified]

[Text] 1. At last the Security Council has realized that on the basis of the UN Charter, in order to express an opinion on the entire issue of the war, it should review the start of aggression by Iraq. At the same time, its refusal to adopt a clear and decisive stance on this matter indicates that the council still lacks the necessary political will in this respect. According to this, the section of the resolution related to the entire issue of the war and termination of the dispute is incomplete, lacks credibility, and cannot be implemented. The first step toward a just solution for the war, is the explicit condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor.

2. Following the Iraqi regime's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran on 31 Shahrivar 1359 [22 Sep 1980], the Security Council, through its irresponsible silence, practically gave the go-ahead for a military solution as the only way of confronting the aggressive invading forces; still some permanent members of the Security Council persist on adopting unilateral stances. As long as the council remains incapable of imposing just and correct solutions in accordance with its duties and responsibilities, thanks to influential position of a group of permanent members of the council, the Security Council will remain responsible for continuation of the war.

3. Although the resolution has not mentioned the issue of territorial attacks, the council still lacks the necessary political courage to condemn Iraq for attacking Iranian territory and occupying of a large part of Iran for a long time.

4. The resolution has made reference to peaceful solution of the dispute, but has made no mention of the overall violation of this international principle and the Iraqi use of force in its attack against Iran. This is a major shortcoming of this resolution.

5. In view of the fact that in the Security Council's last resolution, issued on 25 April 1985, the use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces was condemned, the Security Council is duty-bound this time to strongly condemn the repeated extensive use of chemical weapons by Iraq. It should have mentioned the name of the culprit. Whereas, the present resolution has an even milder tone in its approach toward the use of chemical weapons; it is an illegical trend.

6. In view of the barbaric attack of the Iraqi military fighter planes on an Iranian passenger plane, the Security Council, in accordance with its responsibilities, is dutybound to condemn the Iraqi regime strongly for this horrific crime. At a time when the resolutions of the ICAO council, in connection with Iraq's threats against airlines' security and its participation in plane hijackings have been unimplemented for a long time, the weak stance of the Security Council toward this important and grave issue is not commensurate with the gravity of this crime.

7. In its 25 April resolution, the Security Council explicitly stressed the need for respecting international regulations

Therefore, in view of continuing attacks on residential areas, the use of chemical weapons, threats against civil aviation airlines, lack of respect for the conventions on air piracy and hijacking, and the Iraqi attacks on neutral ships, the Security Council is dutybound to adopt a more decisive stance against the Iraqi regime on these matters.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always abided by the policy of requesting other countries to refrain from resorting to any measures that might intensify tension and expand the war and will continue to abide by this policy. Implementation of this policy can play a significant role in maintaining and safeguarding security of the Persian Gulf region.

9. Some members of the council, during its debates and sessions, strived to prevent release of a one-sided resolution, but these efforts remained fruitless, thanks to irresponsible stances of some permanent members. Nevertheless, they threw light on the weaknesses and ineffectiveness of the Security Council. The Security Council could find a solution to the problems if it were to give priority to restoration of justice instead of interests of a handful of its permanent members.

10. Once again, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing gratitude to the UN secretary general for his efforts, declares its readiness to continue cooperating with the secretary general on matters related to observation of international regulations, the 8-point plan, and also measures taken in order to prevent the expansion of the war and intervention of other countries in the war; it still welcomes any steps solely to attain these goals.

2 More French Nationals Arrested, 3d Still Held

AU2610O3 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, Feb 26 (AFP) — Iranian authorities Wednesday arrested two more French nationals and planned to expel them, a diplomatic source said here. Iran was already still holding one of four other French nationals arrested Monday.

France last week expelled four Iranians on the grounds their papers were not in order. The expulsions followed enquiries after bomb blasts in Paris. The four Iranians were not accused of any offences in this connection.

The two arrested Wednesday, at Tabriz in northwest Iran, worked for the French electrical equipment company Alsthom, the source said. Dr. Bertrand Madelin and electrician Bruno Kermadic were taken to Teheran for expulsion.

There was no news of Gilles Picot, representative in Iran of the French electrical equipment company Cogelec, who had been arrested monday in Teheran with four other French nationals who were later released.

The French Embassy in Teheran was seeking clarification. There was no indication of what charges, if any, he faced.

The two arrested at Tabriz Wednesday had been questioned with other French nationals by Iranian authorities two months ago, after straying into a banned zone near the Iranian-Soviet border.

Arrested in Teheran Monday and released were Jean-Pierre Boudot, who runs a power station construction project at Tabriz for Alsthom, his wife, French Embassy attache Philippe Tissot, arrested while taking a diplomatic bag to Teheran airport, and Alsthom managing director for Iran Jean Pierre Descourt.

Velayati Departs for Geneva Disarmament Conference

GI 260539 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati, left for Geneva this morning at the head of a delegation to participate in the disarmament conference.

Aqazadeh Says U.A.E. Visit 'Highly Successful'

LD250932 Tehran IRNA in English 1911 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — The Iranian oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh described the result of his recent trip to the United Arab Emirates as "highly successful".

Aqazadeh who was speaking to IRNA after arriving in Tehran Monday night said that the U.A.E. officials fully agreed with his proposal, put forward on behalf of the oil ministers of Algeria and Libya, on a temporary halt in oil export of OPEC members. He further told IRNA that during his talks with U.A.E. officials he stressed the importance of defending oil prices and also refraining from increasing production, which were agreed by the U.A.E. officials.

Aqazadeh who headed a delegation to the U.A.E. on behalf of Algeria and Libya, said that he informed the U.A.E. officials that if the current oil price trend continued, OPEC members would have to stop oil production temporarily.

"The U.A.E. officials indicated that they will fully support any proposal put forward by Iran in the forthcoming OPEC meeting," he added. The U.A.E. officials reassured Iran that they will be on the side of the Islamic Republic under any condition, Aqazadeh said. When asked about issues to be discussed in the upcoming OPEC meeting, he said that Iran will suggest that it would be better to leave the oil resources untapped if the current price trend continued.

The conditions which are being imposed on OPEC are dangerous and, therefore, Iran will propose a temporary halt in exports. So far, he told IRNA, a number of countries have expressed their support for this proposal.

On economic effects of such a halt on oil production countries, he said under the present conditions OPEC members revenues had become very limited as low as one third of previous income. Practically these countries were in an undesirable situation and should give serious considerations to measures which would return the previous situation.

As a measure to offset economic effects of a temporary exports halt, formation of a special fund will be proposed to help minimize effects of cuts in revenues of exporting countries.

While in the U.A.E., the Iranian oil minister held talks with his U.A.E. counterpart, Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, Monday and discussed oil related issues.

In a meeting with the U.A.E. Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamid ibn Muhammad Monday, he discussed mutual relations. The Iranian oil minister also briefed the U.A.E. official on the victories of the Iranian forces gained in the couse of the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 offensive.

Aqazadeh stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran was interested in friendly relations with countries of the region and is of the opinion that removal of Saddam who is the cause of tension, peace and calm will return to the region.

Shaykh Hamid ibn Muhammad stressed importance of his country's relations with Iran and its interest in further strengthening them. He emphasized that under any condition the U.A.E. will remain an ally of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Lebanese Muslim Leaders Visit Tehran 22 Feb

Meet With Velayati

LD231733 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA — Lebanese Muslim leaders in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati emphasised here Saturday that the victory of Iranian Muslim combatants in Al-Faw will have far-reaching and fruitful impact on the struggle in southern Lebanon. They said it will be in developing the Islamic movement against Zion, Iranian foreign minister said that Iraq has been completely deprived of access to the Persian Gulf as a result of Iran's Val-Fajr-8 operations. He noted that the politico-military implications [words indistinct] said that most of the global news media believe that the offensive launched on Feb. 9, was the "greatest victory" attained by the Iranian Muslim forces since the beginning of [words indistinct].

Meet With Khamene'i

LD231915 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 23, IRNA — A group of Lebanese Muslim leaders briefed President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday, on latest developments in Lebanon as well as the heroic and anti-Zionist campaign and resistance of Lebanese Muslims.

The visitors included prominent Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, vice-president of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly of Lebanon Muhammad Mahdi Shamsaddin, Hizballah Party spokesman Ibrahim Amin, leader of Islamic Amal Movement Abu Hisham as well as a prominent member of Lebanon's Amal action, Abu Yahya.

The Iranian president said that the Islamic Republic has always paid special attention to issues of Lebanon as part of the Islamic world.

Khamene'i also emphasised on the need for the establishment of an Islamic government in Lebanon.

He also lauded the expansion of the ideology of resistance and struggle among the Muslims in Al-Biqa' region, Beirut, northern and especially southern Lebanon, saying that it is essential for all Muslims to continue their fight in complete solidarity and unity.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Khamene'i furthermore emphasised on the need to counter the dangerous policy of weakening the Muslims in Lebanon.

Envoy to Lebanon Praises Resistance in South

LD221227 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb. 22, IRNA — Iranian charge d'affaires to Beirut Mahmoud Nourani visited positions of the Islamic resistance forces in southern Beirut Friday afternoon.

Reiterating overall support of the officials and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nourani said that victories achieved by the Iranian forces in the course of Iraqi imposed war were not separate from achievements of Muslim Lebanese people fighting against Zionist forces.

Meanwhile, a statement released by the Islamic resistance front Friday, said that the front's forces Friday missile attacked a Zionist inhabited district inside the occupied Palestine [sentence as received].

The statement said that the attack was in retaliation for the assassination of Martyr Khalil Akawi, an official of the Islamic Tawhid Movement who was martyred in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, by the Zionists last week.

Responding to a call of the front, Muslims of southern Beirut held a march after the Friday congregational prayers in protest of aggressions of the Zionist forces against Muslims in the area.

The marchers, carrying pictures of Imam Khomeyni, Imam Musa Sadr and martyrs of Islam, stated their full support for the forces who fight against the Zionist enemy.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Arrives in Bahrain 25 Feb

GF2605 36 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary of our country's Foreign Ministry, who represents Iran, Libya, and Algeria following their meeting and the joint decisions they adopted related to coordination in the campaign against the reduction of oil prices, is on a visit to the Persian Gulf states. He concluded his visit to Saudi Arabia and arrived in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, yesterday afternoon.

According to the Central News Unit, after his arrival he met with Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al-Khalifah, heir apparent and defense minister of Bahrain. They discussed the plot to reduce oil prices by the industrial countries. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam said: The three countries of Iran, Libya, and Algeria have decided to combat this

conspiracy, which is directed against oil-producing countries, in a concerted manner. We will request that all oil-producing countries attend the preliminary session prior to the regular OPEC session in March.

The heir apparent of Bahrain said: We firmly believe that the reduction in oil prices is a conspiracy on the part of the West, but we hope that a compromise can be reached and that we can maintain prices. Alluding that this matter is a fateful one for Bahrain, he said: It is Bahrain's policy to reduce production to maintain prices, and we will attend every session held for this purpose.

Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam also met the Bahraini foreign and oil ministers.

Besharati Comments on Libyan, Syrian Visits

GF250711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Mr Besharati, first deputy minister of our country's Foreign Ministry, returned to Tehran last night at the conclusion of his trips to Libya and Syria. In an interview with our correspondent, he spoke on the results of his trip to Syria and Libya. He stated that he had handed in written messages from President Khamene'i on the latest developments in the war and the region to the Libyan and Syrian leaders.

The first deputy foreign minister then referred to the victories of the Islamic combatants in the latest operations and the successful Iranian moves on the international scene. He said: During these meetings, details pertaining to the war, the military operations of the Islamic combatants, and the political developments which were a concomitant of these victorious operations were explained to the Libyan and Syrian leaders, who expressed their firm support for the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially concerning the war.

The first deputy foreign minister then referred to the propaganda that the operations by the Islamic combatants pose a threat to the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf. He said: We declared that our relations with the states in the region are cordial and that we desire better ties with these countries. Our sole aim is to topple the Saddam regime and chastise the aggressor. He added: This trip was very successful and we feel that the latest operations by the warriors of Islam, have created a better and more favorable atmosphere for the toppling of Saddam.

Islamic Guidance Official Assassinated in Kordestan

LD242014 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Feb 24, IRNA — Director general of the Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Office here was assassinated by two unknown terrorists on motor cycles Monday morning.

In this connection Minister of Ershad-e Eslam Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami issued a statement condemning the imperialist agents who committed the crime.

War Information Official on Combatants' Successes

LD252129 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 25, IRNA — In an interview with IRNA here Tuesday, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) stressed that Iran's Islamic combatants are capable of thrusting into the Iraqi territory from any point along the one thousand several hundred kilometer border. He said the Iranian forces would successfully launch their offensives no matter in marshlands, salt marshlands, Ardvand River in the south, or snow-covered heights and ardous mountains in the north, and would route aggressor enemy forces.

Speaking about Iran's new offensive, the spokesman said that the Iranian troops have liberated 37 villages and small towns northeast of the Iraqi city of Al-Sulaymaniyah and are now in a vantage position militarily for advancing on the city. He said the area has strategic heights many of which are 2,000 meters above sea level and higher.

The spokesman said the operations, code-named Val-Fair-9 are being conducted with the idea of responding to the Iraqi downing of an Iranian passenger plane in Ahvaz February 20th with a group of government officials on board. The WIH official added that the Monday and Tuesday operations in northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah was proof of the power of the Iranian forces and of verity of Iran's claim. He said Iran's thrust against the Iraqi forces would continue until the fall of the ruling Ba'thist government in Baghdad.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the spokesman noted that the Baghdad regime customarily publishes empty claims of having recaptured the Iraqi city of Al-Faw, whereas in reality the city has been turned into a mere grave for the Iraqi forces.

More on Chemical Weapon Victims European Treatment

LD211757 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Bonn, Feb 21 IRNA — Nine Iranian Muslim combatants, victims of Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons arrived in Frankfurt Thursday night.

One of the chemical victims identified as Manuchehr Shamseddini succumbed to his severe chemical wounds and attained martyrdom on board the plane while enroute to the German city. Manuchehr's body is to be returned to Iran as soon as legal formalities are over. Five of the Iranian victims are hospitalized in Elizabeth Hospital in Recklinghausen and the other three combatants in Bonn University's Hospital.

Eleven chemical victims who had earlier been dispatched to West Germany are reported to be in 'satisfactory' condition and none of them are receiving extensive care.

Among the 22 chemically wounded Muslim combatants dispatched Thursday to European countries, ten are hospitalized in Amsterdam, nine in London and three others in Paris.

Meanwhile, three others arrives in Basel, Switzerland Thursday and were hospitalized in Listan Hospital.

According to IRNA reporter from Bern, Swiss T.V. reporters talked with the chemical victims in the airplane and the interview was broadcast on that country's television.

A Swiss physician treating the victims said that the hospitalized people have undoubtedly been wounded by some chemical substance.

Among Iranian chemical victims who arrived in Switzerland last week three are confined to a hospital in Laussane.

Media Ban in Sweden Protested

LD211921 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Stocholm, Feb. 21, IRNA — Officials of the Islamic Republic's Embassy here categorically rejected Swedish medical authorities claim that their refusal for banning visits by members of that country's mass media to hospitalized Iranian chemical attack victims was because of 'medical reasons.'

The Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Stockholm has expressed its dissatisfaction over the issue to the Swedish Foreign Ministry saying that the hospital's atmosphere is 'polluted with political issues.'

According to reports, hospital authorities have not even permitted embassy personnel to visit the Iranian chemical victims.

The hospital attributed its decision for not allowing visits to the hospitalized Iranians as being for medical reasons.

Officials at the embassy, however, pointed out that reporters in other European countries have not been denied permission to interview the hospitalized Iranians undergoing treatment in those places.

Authorities of the hospitals where the chemical attack victims are confined have applied the interview ban to both foreign and domestic reporters.

The Islamic Republic Embassy rightly believes that by barring the reporters and film crew from visiting the chemically wounded victims the Swedish medical profession is as though hiding the news of Iraq's crimes.

Four Iranian chemical victims were hospitalized in two Swedish hsopitals on February 17.

Iranian Muslim combatants, Nader Beirami and Mohammd Zarchian succumbed to their severe chemical wounds and attained martyrdom in Belgium and Austria on Wednesday and Thursday.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 1

LD251145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Communique No 1 on the "Val Fajr-9" operations issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O martyr-nurturing and heroic nation of Iran, your courageous and proud children, honorable men in history, are continuing their victories and attacking the defeated Ba'thist enemy. Last night, the powerful forces of Islam stationed on the northern front began the "Val-Fajr-9" operations, capturing the strategic heights in the general region of Al-Sulaymaniyah and achieving their assigned goals. Our forces are currently consolidating their positions. These operations, which bear the sacred codename Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah, started at 2300 [1930 GMT] last night and were the response the selfless combatants of Islam to the call of the heroic Iranian nation for revenge against the Ba'thist enemy, who committed another crime by attacking a passenger plane. O great nation of Islam, at a time when international organizations show their weakness by failing to condemn the aggressive Ba'thist regime, at a time when the supporters of the criminal Saddam do not stop backing this abject and defeated man, without a doubt the powerful combatants of Islam cannot remain still. You should know that the forces of Islam and the heroic nation of Iran are determined to punish the inhuman regime of Iraq and to topple this corrupt regime with their own powerful hands.

A martyr-nurturing and heroic nation of Iran, your powerful children succeeded in the "Val Fajr-9" operations in capturing the important strategic heights in the general region of Al-Sulaymaniyah, including the strategic (Hezar Qolleh) heights. Our forces also liberated 25 Iraqi villages and now overlook a number of Iraqi cities and towns. A large number of enemy forces have been annihilated or wounded. Hundreds of dead bodies belonging to the enemy forces are lying on the battlefield, and a number of Ba'thist mercenaries have been captured by the combatants of Islam. These prisoners are being transferred behind the frontline. More information will be brought to the attention of the heroic Iranian nation in later communiques. Seek assistance from God and victory is nigh. [Koranic verse]

Forces 'Crush' Counteroffensive

LD251631 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw Feb 25, IRNA — Iran's Islamic forces crushed another counter-assault launched by the Iraqi forces in Val-Fajr-8 operational region around noon Tuesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces.

A great deal of Iraqi military hardware was demolished in the smashed counterattack.

Communique No 2390

LD251738 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 25, IRNA — The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports here Tuesday that the Iranian forces launched another offensive code named Val-Fajr-9 on Iraqi positions in Marivan Monday night. In its Communique Number 2390, the command says that it will release the outcome of the triumphant Val-Fajr-9 operations soon.

The command says that Iran's Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire throughout the fronts Monday killing and wounding at least 15 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing scores of gun emplacements together with three vehicles of theirs in the western fronts.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and munition dumps were destroyed during the exchange of fire with Iranian forces in the northwestern fronts Monday, according to the communique.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, an Iraqi armoured unit came under Iranian artillery fire in Hoseyniyeh and elsewhere in these fronts the Iraqi war planes violating the airpsace of the region were forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft units. All other Iraqi operations in the southern fronts were checked by Iranian forces Monday.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were sporadically hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire Monday as a result of which Abadan substained minor damage.

Val-Fajr-9 Communique No 2

LD251814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Communique No 2 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued 25 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

O Islamic nation! O Islamic nation of Iran! Our self-sacrificing combatants have again demonstrated their power and might resulting from their faith on the battlefields and following the victorious and epic "Val-Fajr-8" operations which culminated in the liberation of the strategic city of Al-Faw. At 2300 last night west of our Islamic homeland, as a continuation of their series of operations aimed at toppling the Iraqi ruling regime, and as a response to the crimes perpetrated by the Ba'thist Zionist regime in carrying out a cowardly attack on a passenger aircraft, our combatants began the "Val-Fajr-9" operations codenamed Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah and the noble Koranic verse: In the law of equality there is saving of life for you, O ye men of discernment. With an extensive advance deep inside Iraqi territory in the general Al-Sulaymaniyah region, our combatants liberated and brought the region's strategic heights under their control.

In these victorious mountainous operations Islam's combatants crossed severe obstacles, vast minefields, barbed wire entanglements, and the intractable snow-capped heights in the region, and succeeded in assaulting enemy positions and in inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

During these operations Islam's mighty combatants succeeded in crossing the Little Zab and Cham-e Gogasur Rivers, and the Sar Kureh chain of mountains, to a depth of 25 km inside Iraqi territory, with a height of up to 2,100 meters. They also succeeded in capturing the Halwan chain of hills, known as (Hazar Qullah), with heights ranging between 1,400 to 1,700 meters.

During these glorious operations, Iraq's Chuman region, one of the assembly and traffic centers of desperadoes and counter-revolutionaries subservient to world arrogance, came under the control of our forces. Also, 37 villages in the Iraqi Al-Sulaymaniyah region, emptied of population and turned into military centers by the Iraqi ruling regime, were liberated by the mighty combatants of the monotheistic army.

The border post of (Sever Lin), in the Sur Kureh region, also fell to our forces.

During these victorious operations hundreds of enemy troops were killed or wounded and another group was captured by our combatants. So far, more than 90 of them have been evacuated behind the frontline.

In their operations last night, Islam's intrepid fighters totally destroyed the Iraqi 2d Battalion of the 504th Brigade; totally destroyed the 1st company of the 1st Battalion of the 504th Brigade; destroyed the 73d Commando Brigade by 50 percent; destroyed another commando battalion by 50 percent; destroyed the 94th 130-mm Artillery Battalion and the 4th Tank Battalion by 50 percent; and occupied the headquarters of the Iraqi 504th Brigade.

At present the self-sacrificing troops of the Islamic Army, who have achieved all the objectives of this phase of the operations thanks to divine help, are deploying themselves 25 km from the Iraqi city of Al-Sulaymaniyah and are strengthening and consolidating their positions.

Help from God and imminent victory! Pass the glad tidings to the faithful! [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, joint operational center of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Iraqi POW's Interviewed

LD252123 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb 25, IRNA — Iraqi POW's captured in the course of the on-going Val-Fajr-8 offensive elaborated on the performance of Iraq's Presidential Guards and three other brigades during foiled Iraqi counter-attacks.

In an interview with IRNA here Monday, an Iraqi POW from infantry Brigade 95, said that the commander of the brigade and its other personnel fled after the Iraqi counter offensive and the first brigade of the Presidential Guards were smashed by Iranian forces on February 18th.

He said that the infantry Brigade-95 sustained substantial casualties and losses in the smashed counterattack.

Another Iraqi POW said that the 15th and 20th mechanized brigades, each with 45 personnel carriers and a tank battalion, launched a counter offensive which was crushed by Iranian forces, forcing them to retreat while they sustained considerable casualties and damage. Fifty percent of the two brigades were annihilated during the counterattack, and Colonel Isma'il, the commander of the 20th Mechanized Brigade and the commander of the First Company of the brigade were wounded during the crushed counterattack, the POW's said.

Three other Iraqi officers of the First Company of the 20th Mechanized Brigade were also killed, the POW concluded.

Val-Fajr-8 Offensive Continues

LD260642 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 26, IRNA — Iran's Islamic forces in continuation of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive Tuesday night in a patrol-combat mission in Al-Faw peninsula destroyed two infantry battalions and one tank company of the Iraqi forces.

The Islamic forces in this operation which was carried out with the objective of disturbing the enemy's military arrangement peneterated into the Iraqi positions on Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis destroying two infantry battalions and a tank company.

One of the Islamic combatants speaking to IRNA said that the enemy has suffered great casualties. He added that the latest operation has further demoralised the battered Iraqi forces and has totally disturbed their military set up in the area.

Further Heights Liberated

LD260656 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Northeast Al-Sulaymaniyah Operation Region, Feb. 26, IRNA — The Islamic combatants of Iran in another heroic thrust into the enemy positions Tuesday night, liberated more strategic heights and paralyzed enemy troops.

The liberated heights include Qoli chain of heights with 1460 to 1860 meter above sea level (1460 meter Ka-Anser height, 1625 meter Kajan Height, 1660 meter Qoli Height, and 1862 meter Shah-Kowan Height).

In the second stage of operation Val-Fajr-9, the Iranian combatants also liberated 'Kouh Nam-Nam' chain of heights and 'Espi-Darreh' mountain chains (with heights between 1080 to 1597 meters), and 'Zolan' chain of heights (between 1205 and 1640 meters above sea level).

The Iraqi troops have suffered heavy casualties and losses in this operation. IRNA correspondents report that snow-covered mountain peaks and heights in northeast Al-Sulaymaniyah have been turned to a graveyard of defeated Iraqi forces.

Iran's experienced and fresh combatants were so swift in their lightning operation that deprived the enemy troops from any reaction.

Another group of enemy troops who were out of the Iranian forces fire range, had no alternative but to flee the operation region leaving behind their casualties.

Hundreds of enemy troops were killed and wounded in the course of the successful operation, with Iraqi corpses littering the battle ground. Another group of Iraqi forces were also taken captive in the operation.

Further Battle Victories

GF260747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0709 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners. Please pay attention. Please pay attention. According to the latest reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, center for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps, the courageous Islamic combatants continued their relentless battle with the Ba'thist aggressor and have inflicted lethal blows on the Saddam regime. During these operations, 40 suburbs and villages have been liberated in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq and the Islamic combatants have established complete control over the strategic heights in the area after occupying them.

According to the IRNA correspondents sent to the area, during these operations, which took place when the mountainous area was engulfed with heavy mists and a rainy atmosphere, the noble warriors of the Islamic forces crossed the natural barriers, such as heights — which are difficult to surmount — rivers, icebound areas, and harassing enemy obstacles to ambush the Ba'thist enemy and kill a large number of enemy forces. Some were taken prisoner while their military equipment and accoutrements were destroyed.

According to another report from the area, so far 100 prisoners from these operations have been evacuated to the rear, including Ba'thist officers and sergeants. These persons, in interviews with the IRNA correspondents, expressed their complete surprise at the rapid attack and the combat tactics of the Islamic combatants under cover of the night. They admitted that most of the personnel in their units were killed or wounded. The commander of the first company of the 1st Battalion of the 504th Brigade of the Ba'thist forces can be seen among the prisoners. In an interview he said of his being taken prisoner that the commanding unit and the base of the 1st Company were taken by surprise in but a moment. He said: We suddenly became aware of being besieged by the Islamic combatants.

This report says that divine succor has aided the victorious Islamic combatants during the operations and the weather, which had been clear for a week, suddenly became foggy last night and a heavy mist settled, which concealed the enemy and prevented them from moving or organizing their combat readiness or personnel. Some military equipment of the Ba'thists was bogged in the mire and fell into the hands of the Islamic combatants as booty. May your battle be victorious.

200 Square Kilometers Seized

LD2608401 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] N.E. Al-Sulaymaniyah operation region, Feb. 26, IRNA — Over 200 sq. kms of Iraqi territory northeast of Al-Sulaymaaiyah has been liberated by Iran's islamic combatants in the course of the ongoing operation Val Fajr-9 launched Monday night, [24 February] according to early estimates by military experts. The liberated areas are mostly snow-covered mountainous regions. They include heights as high as 2100 meters as well as tens of villages and townships whose inhabitants have been forced by the Baghdad regime to evacuate.

Iran's Islamic combatants are now stationed in liberated positions and fortifications and have any enemy movements in the area under their control. According to latest reports 100 enemy POW's have been transferred behind the fronts.

500 Iraqis Killed in Val-Fajr-8

LD2609281 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb 26, IRNA — Over 500 enemy troops were killed or wounded during the patrol-combat operation of Iran's Islamic combatants in the Val-Fajr-8 operational region on the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis on Tuesday night.

IRNA correspondents report that the Iranian offensive took place in muddy ground caused by heavy rains over the past few days.

Battalions One and Two of Brigade 428 and an armored company of Fifth Mechanized Division were routed in Iran's lightning offensive.

Five enemy tanks and personnel carriers were also set on fire in the operation.

'Secret Report' Says Over 12,000 Casualties in War

GF2519421 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Last week the regime officials stationed in various battle-front positions sent a secret report to Khomeyni's war minister on the casualties and losses suffered by the Iranian Army and Revolutionary Guards when they attacked Al-Faw port. We quote from the report:

Helicopter pilots and copilots: 25 men; aircraft pilots and crew: 132 men; Revolutionary Guards and Basij personnel attached to the army: 2,900 men; land army soldiers: 8,150 men; the (?commissioned) officers in the Army and the Revolutionary Guard Corps: 189 men; Navy: 300 men; Revolutionary Guards Corps attached to the Navy: 185 men; and the territorial fighters: 430 men; all were lost during the attack from the Iranian side. In other words, according to this secret report sent to Khomeyni's war minister, in the first 10 days after the "Val-Fajr-8" operations some 12,310 men lost their lives on the fronts of this meaningless war. Now that the war has reached its third heavy phase, more people are expected to be sacrificed in the personal enmity between Khomeyni and Saddam Husayn. Many more than 12,310 men will be killed.